

Commission Meeting News

Key reports, issues, and decisions of interest to licensees and/or the public are reported here from the most recent Commission meetings:

Commission Meeting of March, 2014

Pending Cases: The Commission accepted the permanent voluntary surrender of two licenses and the voluntary surrender for five years of two licenses; entered in consent agreements to revoke one license, suspend five licenses, reprimand one licensee, and approve the issuance of three provisional broker licenses on certain conditions; ordered hearings involving 19 licensees; reconsidered and rescinded a previous decision to order a hearing involving one licensee; directed its legal staff to seek an injunction against one individual and one firm to prohibit them from engaging in real estate brokerage without first obtaining licenses; extended the time for one licensee and one applicant for licensure to satisfy the conditions of Consent Orders previously entered into with the Commission.

Rulemaking Hearing: The Commission commenced a rulemaking hearing at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Commission's office and invited anyone present to comment on proposed rule changes and the text of the proposed amendments published in the North Carolina Register. No comments were made. One written comment received by the Commission was read into the record; it supported the amendment of Rule A. 0110 to combine the *Broker-in-Charge Annual Review* course and the *Update* course into one four-hour course, thereby allowing brokers-in-charge (BICs), and BIC-eligible brokers to take a four-hour elective for continuing education credit. The Commission concluded the hearing stating that any written comments received by May 5, 2014 will be considered by the Commission before taking any action on the proposed rule changes and that a record of the proceedings will be available for public inspection at the Commission's office.

Special Meeting to Vote on Proposed Rule Changes: The Commission voted to hold a Special Meeting on May 9, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. to vote on the proposed rule changes. If adopted by the Commission and approved by the Rules Review Commission, the rule changes will become effective July 1, 2014.

License Examination Results: The examination for licensing as a real estate broker in North Carolina is divided into two sections – National and State. The National section tests knowledge of prevailing law and practice throughout the country. The State section tests knowledge of North Carolina law and practice. Applicants who fail to pass an examination may repeat it.

Following are the results for the month of February 2014 and the past year:

	Individuals Tested for the First Time			
	Took precourse course		Hold license from another state	
	February 2014	March 2013 thru February 2014	February 2014	March 2013 thru February 2014
# Tested	178	3,529	29	353
% Pass both sections	58%	58%	N/A	N/A
% Pass National section	70%	69%	N/A	N/A
% Pass State section	67%	69%	48%	41%

License Applications Involving Character Issues: Applications for licenses from persons who have character issues such as prior criminal convictions or disciplinary action by another licensing board are separately reviewed by the Commission. Decisions are made based upon criminal background checks, information supplied by the applicant, and in-person interviews. Total candidates reviewed: 25; total approved: 13.

Continuing Education: The Commission approved no new *Update Course* instructors, no new *Update Course* sponsors, five new elective courses and 13 previously approved elective courses to be offered by other sponsors. As of February 28, 2014, there were 203 approved sponsors.

Report on License Numbers: The Commission was advised that as of March 1, 2014, the Commission has 92,872 brokers, as follows:

Active Brokers	56,632
(Includes 3,610 Active Provisional Brokers)	
Inactive Brokers	25,605
(Includes 4,256 Inactive Provisional Brokers)	
Firms	10,635

Next Commission Meeting: The next Commission meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at Raleigh, North Carolina.